

## **Belmont Vision 21 Implementation Committee**

Minutes, July 20, 2005  
(Accepted August 10, 2005)

Meeting was called to order by the chair, Jennifer Page, at 7:05 pm

Members Present: Donna Brescia, Vin DeNovellis, Victoria Haase, Sara Oaklander, Meg O'Brien, Jennifer Page, Paul Santos, Paul Solomon, Diane Stafford (alternate to Ann Rittenberg)

Members Absent: Matt Hausman

Others Present: Delores Keefe, Jan Krause joined the meeting at 8:45 pm

### 1. Introductions

The committee welcomed new members Vin DeNovellis, Paul Santos, and Donna Brescia

### 2. Administrative

2.1 The minutes from the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and accepted as amended. The notes from the May 19<sup>th</sup> and the June 6<sup>th</sup> meetings were reviewed and accepted as amended.

2.2 The regular schedule of meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday's of each month from 7:00-9:00 pm will be resumed beginning on Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup>.

2.3 V21 members may have opportunities to serve as liaisons to other committees, which are initiated to implement various aspects of the vision on a short-term basis (example PIC, BEDPEG)

### 3. Announcements/Brief Reports

3.1 Belmont Center Planning Group: Sara Oaklander reported on the work of The Belmont Center Planning Group. She represents the Vision Committee in this group. The group of 7 members has been meeting each week for the past two months to design a process for the development of Belmont Center that they will present to the BOS in September with a goal to submit their final recommendations in the fall of 2006.

(For additional information you can review notes and draft documents from these meetings on the town's website at <http://www.town.belmont.ma.us>)

The process will include collecting community input on issues such as zoning, parking, traffic, and business development, to synthesize these ideas, and to evaluate what kind of professional help or other resources that may be needed.

Recently the group has defined geographically what they will consider "the community of Belmont Center" and identified 5 gateways into the area as follows: Concord Avenue

at the Underwood Pool/Library, Common Street at the Lion's Club, Town Hall at the corner of Concord Avenue and Pleasant Street, The intersection's at Pleasant Street and Leonard Street, and Cross Street and Alexander Avenue.

3.2 Newcomers: Donna Breccias reported on her efforts to contact newcomers to Belmont. She designed a set of questions which were sent out to the approximate 60-70 people that attended the 2004 "Meet Belmont" event. Several responded with suggestions and comments.

A goal for this year will be to develop an organized data base of newcomers and to find a way to follow up with those who sign in at the upcoming event.

3.3 Meet Belmont: The Newcomers Network will sponsor Meet Belmont on Wednesday August 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-8:00 pm in the High School Cafeteria. They are in the process of inviting and organizing town officials, town committees, and various clubs and organizations that will be on hand to answer questions. A representative from the Belmont business community asked if the event was open to businesses in town. It was decided by the Newcomers Network that instead they would offer to distribute coupons on behalf the businesses to be redeemed around town. The focus for the evening will be to provide an opportunity for new residents to mix informally and be introduced to a variety of helpful information which would assist them in becoming planted in this community.

Jennifer Page will coordinate the members of the V21 Committee who have agreed to help by distributing flyers beforehand and staff the event from 4:00-9:00 pm on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Jennifer will also coordinate with Victoria who has agreed to update the Addendum insert for the Information Guide To Belmont so that these booklets may be brought up to date and be ready to hand out.

#### 4. Traffic Advisory Committee

V21 members were asked to review the Working Vision for Belmont's Future, adopted by Town Meeting, April 23, 2001 and look for ideas that should be verbalized at the upcoming TAC hearing on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. How might the "vision" be part of the Trapelo Road/Belmont Street Corridor Planning? Examples: "We will be an environmentally responsible community", therefore it was suggested that streetlights should be positioned down to avoid unnecessary light pollution along the route. "We will preserve our small town community atmosphere", therefore the design should include lots of green space. Thoughts should be e-mailed to Jennifer who will organize them in preparation for the V21 participation at the hearing on 9/2/05

#### 5. Sustainable Belmont

Jan Krause who is the co-chair of this committee reported on the following:

The committee was formed in February of 2005 and has an active membership of 20 people with 60 on the e-mail list. Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month with approximately 12 in attendance. The group began by ranking 32 possible projects to consider and chose the 2 with the highest priority. They met with all three selectmen to

discuss these initiatives. The first is to develop a sustainable green design bylaw for municipal buildings and the second is to develop a Belmont climate action plan. With this in mind it is their intention to join the MA Climate Action Network (MCAN). Jan outlined the advantages of joining MCAN which include: access to their professional staff members as resource people, possible grant money available through the organization for events, networking with other member communities on environmental issues. Since no disadvantages could be assumed the V21 Committee made a motion to support Sustainable Belmont in joining MCAN which carried by a vote of 7 in favor and 1 abstention.

#### 6. Planning for the Next Meeting

The next V21 Meeting was tentatively planned for Wednesday August 10<sup>th</sup>.

At that time the committee will accept and vote on nominations for both a Committee Chair and Co-Chair.

The next meeting's agenda will include a review of how the vision came into being and beginning to plan for this year's work.

Jennifer distributed several handouts (listed below) for members to review.

#### Handouts:

1. Lexington 2020 Vision Implementation Committee (from the 2004 Annual Report, Town of Lexington),
2. "Questions cloud road to town's 2020 vision," Concord (from the Boston Globe 7/3/05),
3. "What Does A No Place For Hate Community Look Like?" (from The Lexington No Place for Hate Steering Committee),
4. A Report To The Belmont Board Of Selectmen: Is Belmont "Business Friendly" (from the Belmont Vision 21 Implementation Committee 2/4/03)

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Victoria Haase  
Secretary Pro Tem

